

DA ASKS EXTRADITION

Reagan Eyes Record Of Bradley Hearing

By MARTIN SMITH

(Special to the States-Item)

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Aides to Gov. Ronald Reagan today began poring over evidence presented yesterday at an extradition hearing for Edgar Eugene Bradley, charged by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison with conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy.

Bradley's attorney, George Jensen, asserts that the evidence is sufficient to block Louisiana's request that he be returned to New Orleans to be tried on the charge.

THE EVIDENCE was presented during a five-hour hearing conducted by Edwin Meese III, legal affairs secretary to the California governor.

Jensen based much of his argument on the findings of the Warren Commission, which concluded that the late president was murdered by a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, and

that there was no conspiracy. He told Meese that the evidence accumulated by the entire investigative apparatus of the federal government and compiled in the Warren Report indicates Oswald was the only assassin.

Even if there was a conspiracy, Jensen said, Bradley had no knowledge of it.

BRADLEY, A BUSINESS representative for a radio evangelist, has given a lengthy affidavit in which he denies any

knowledge of a plot and denies

knowing any of the principals Garrison has said played a part in the alleged conspiracy.

Neither Garrison, who has been conducting a probe of the assassination for about 18 months, nor his aides were present.

When Jensen said the only thing Garrison has sworn to is that he is district attorney of New Orleans and that Edgar Eugene Bradley is named in the indictment, Daniel Kremer, a deputy California attorney general, spoke up.

Kremer, representing Louisiana at the hearing, said Jensen was chipping away at supporting documents and not the central issue.

KREMER SAID the only question before the hearing is whether the request to return Bradley to Louisiana is legally sufficient.

Jensen said if California decides to extradite Bradley it will, in effect, be saying the Warren Report is wrong.

Meese, however, said the state's decision will not reflect on the report.

Meese, who told Bradley and Jensen he has no idea when the governor will be able to reach his decision, emphasized several times that the guilt or innocence of the North Hollywood man is not the issue to be decided by Reagan.

Basically, according to Meese, Reagan must decide whether Bradley is the person accused of the alleged crime and whether he was in Louisiana at the time the alleged conspir-

STATES-ITEM

JUNE 27, 1968

NINE

acy took place.

IN DEALING with this last point, Jensen asserted Bradley was on the West Coast between June 1 and Aug. 31, 1963. Court clerk Max Gonzales of New Orleans has said in an affidavit he saw Bradley conferring with the late David Ferrie, another person alleged by Garrison to have been a conspirator.

Jensen declined, for the time being, to offer the documents which he said prove that during the three-month period Bradley was no closer to Louisiana than the California state line.

Jensen indicated he is reluctant to offer any of the documents as proof until Garrison meets the defense "halfway" by giving a more exact time when the alleged meeting between Bradley and Ferrie took place.

During a recess from the hearing, which was held in the governor's office suite, Bradley told newsmen that any witnesses saying he was in Louisiana before April, 1965, or in

New Orleans itself before April, 1967, were mistaken or had been induced to give a false statement.

He indicated, although declining to give details, that he might have enemies in California who could be motivated to lie "because I believe in the constitutional provisions that have made this country great."

HE REFUSED to go further in any explanation and said:

"I don't pin labels on anyone."

Bradley, after proceedings,

told newsmen he thought Meese conducted a fair hearing and added:

"I think this went nicely." He was with his wife, Connie, and 20-year-old son, Brent.

Reagan himself made no ap-

pearance. Not a lawyer, the governor customarily leaves all extradition and clemency hearings to Meese to conduct. Meese submits his report and recommendations later to the governor.